

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/917,976

Examiner

Jean B. Corrielus

Applicant(s)

ISHII, TOSHISADA

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/24/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-6, 9-12, renumbered as 1-8, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 3/24/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JEAN B. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
8/6/05

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Daryl Neff on 7/25/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3 and 9 have been amended as follow:

3. (Amended) A digital broadcast receiving apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to selectively receive a plurality of digital broadcast signals, and to output digital data corresponding to said received digital broadcast signals, at least some of said output digital data corresponding to a plurality of different limited receiving modes;

a processor operable to selectively perform limited receiving processing for said at least some of said output digital data; a plurality of integrated circuit ("IC") card interface sections each adapted for mounting one of a plurality of IC cards including a first IC card and a second IC card, each of said first and second IC cards controlling contract information and scramble key information necessary for said limited receiving processing;

wherein said processor includes an identifier operable to identify to which of said limited receiving modes said first and second IC cards correspond when said first and second IC cards are mounted to said first and second IC card interface sections;

a controller operable to control said processor to perform said limited receiving processing for said at least some of said output digital data by use of said contract information and said scramble key information controlled by one of said first and second IC cards when said one of said first and second IC cards corresponds to said limited receiving mode of said at least some of said output digital data; and

an announcer operable to make an announcement to a user that said first and second IC cards both correspond to an identical one of said limited receiving modes,

wherein said controller is further operable to permit the user to select said one of said first and second IC cards based on said announcement.

9. (Amended) A method for receiving digital broadcasts comprising:

selectively receiving a plurality of digital broadcast signals, and outputting digital data corresponding to said received digital broadcast signals, at least some of said output digital data corresponding to a plurality of different limited receiving modes;

providing a plurality of integrated circuit ("IC") cards corresponding to either an identical one of said limited receiving modes or different ones of said limited receiving modes, each IC card being operable to control contract information and scramble key information necessary to perform limited receiving processing for said at least some of said output digital data;

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providing a plurality of IC card interface sections for mounting ones of said IC cards;

mounting a first one of said IC cards to a first one of said IC card interface sections and mounting a second one of said IC cards to a second one of said IC card interface sections;

identifying to which of said limited receiving modes said first and second IC cards correspond;

performing said limited receiving processing for said at least some of said output digital data by use of said contract information and said scramble key information controlled by one of said first and second IC cards when said one of said first and second IC cards corresponds to said limited receiving mode of said at least some of said output digital data; and

making an announcement to a user when said first and second IC cards both correspond to said identical one of said limited receiving modes; and


permitting the user to select said one of said first and second IC cards based on said announcement.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean B. Corrielus whose telephone number is 571-272-3020. The examiner can normally be reached on Maxi-Flex.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571-272-2988. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jean B Corrielus
Primary Examiner
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